



ST. LOUIS COUNTY

For Immediate Release

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## St. Louis County NAACP Calls for Passage of Due Process Bill

*St. Louis— March 15, 2019*

— The St. Louis County NAACP has endorsed the campus due process protection bills currently under consideration in the Missouri General Assembly. The current bills seek to ensure that students have rights to legal representation, to review evidence against them, and to present their own evidence. Additionally, College and University students would also have the right to challenge or cross-examine the testimony of witnesses and to reject any decision-makers who have exhibited bias or a conflict of interest. We as an organization support individuals such as David Steward who advocate for due process, as it is our 6th amendment right set by the US Constitution. As a former and current trustee of Universities in Missouri, Mr. Steward has an in-depth working knowledge of Title IX proceedings and their lack of due process. The NAACP, applauds individuals who have the resources and courage to support, shed light and effect change on a serious civil rights issue about the denial of due process to African American men on college campuses. The NAACP stands firm in it's historic pursuit of liberty in the face of injustice.

“The denial of due process at Missouri’s colleges disproportionately impacts African American men and that’s why we call for immediate due process reforms. We have witnessed a coordinated campaign to attempt to destroy David Steward’s exemplary reputation simply because he had the courage to stand up for civil rights on our college campuses,” the NAACP said. “These thinly veiled attacks are being organized by individuals and institutions who wish to distract from their poor record of protecting due process rights on Missouri campuses. The NAACP applauds the House Judiciary Committee for their leadership in crafting a common sense compromise bill that will protect students on every college campus.” —John Gaskin, III, President, St Louis County NAACP

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